



PATENT APPLICATION
Docket: 2408.3775US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98(a)(1), transmitted herewith is a Form PTO-1449 containing a list of all patents, publications, or other references that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals identified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). While no representation is made that any of these references may be “prior art” within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103, the transmitted list of references is disclosed in compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

No representation is made that a specific search of office files or Patent Office records has been conducted, or that no better art exists. Nevertheless, the undersigned attorney of record

believes that the transmitted references constitute art that is the closest to the claimed invention taken in its entirety of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention taken in its entirety has been knowingly withheld.

The references listed on the transmitted Form PTO-1449 are below classified for the convenience of the Examiner in one of the following categories of references set forth for differing treatment in accordance with the subsections of 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

I. NEWLY CITED ENGLISH LANGUAGE REFERENCES

The following of the references listed on the transmitted Form PTO-1449 are in the English language and have not to the knowledge of the undersigned attorney been previously submitted to or cited by the United States Patent and Trademark Office:

1. United States Patent Documents

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Patentee</u>
1,719,428	07/02/29	Friedman
2,393,033	01/15/46	Ellinwood
2,616,429	11/04/52	Merenlender
3,020,913	02/13/62	Heyer
3,111,125	11/19/63	Schulte
3,131,712	05/05/64	Risley et al.
3,303,846	02/14/67	Ogle
3,525,357	08/25/70	Koreski
3,654,932	04/11/72	Newkirk et al.
3,734,126	05/22/73	Weaver

(continued)

1. United States Patent Documents (continued)

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Patentee</u>
3,799,172	03/26/74	Szpur
3,865,666	02/11/75	Shoney
3,885,561	05/27/75	Cami
3,888,249	06/10/75	Spencer
3,995,617	12/07/76	Watkins et al.
4,003,398	01/18/77	Duveau
4,029,104	06/14/77	Kerber
4,143,853	03/13/79	Abramson
4,240,434	12/23/80	Newkirk
4,327,722	05/04/82	Groshong et al.
4,341,239	07/27/82	Atkinson
4,431,426	02/14/84	Groshong et al.
4,434,810	03/06/84	Atkinson
4,475,898	10/09/84	Brodner et al.
4,529,399	07/16/85	Groshong et al.
4,549,879	10/29/85	Groshong et al.
4,559,046	12/17/85	Groshong et al.
4,601,697	07/22/86	Mammolenti et al.
4,657,536	04/14/87	Dorman
4,671,796	06/09/87	Groshong et al.
4,685,905	08/11/87	Jeanneret nee Aab
4,701,166	10/20/87	Groshong et al.
4,737,152	04/12/88	Alchas

(continued)

1. United States Patent Documents (continued)

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Patentee</u>
4,753,640	06/28/88	Nichols et al.
4,973,319	11/27/90	Melsky
4,995,863	02/26/91	Nichols et al.
5,000,745	03/19/91	Guest et al.
5,004,455	04/02/91	Greenwood et al.
5,030,210	07/09/91	Alchas
5,084,015	01/28/92	Moriuchi
5,085,635	02/04/92	Cragg
5,112,301	05/12/92	Fenton, Jr. et al.
5,147,318	09/15/92	Hohn
5,147,332	09/15/92	Moorehead
5,160,325	11/03/92	Nichols et al.
5,163,921	11/17/92	Feiring
5,180,364	01/19/93	Ginsburg
5,190,524	03/02/93	Wex
5,215,527	06/01/93	Beck et al.
5,224,938	07/06/93	Fenton, Jr.
5,250,034	10/05/93	Appling et al.
5,261,885	11/16/93	Lui
5,267,979	12/07/93	Appling et al.
5,290,263	03/01/94	Wigness et al.
5,304,155	04/19/94	Lui
5,522,807	06/04/96	Luther

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1. United States Patent Documents (continued)

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Patentee</u>
5,554,136	09/10/96	Luther
5,573,509	11/12/96	Thornton
5,738,666	04/14/98	Watson et al.
5,776,096	07/07/98	Fields
5,800,411	09/01/98	Nakada et al.
5,807,348	09/15/98	Zinger et al.
5,807,349	09/15/98	Person et al.
5,807,356	09/15/98	Finch, Jr. et al.
5,814,024	09/29/98	Thompson et al.
5,928,203	07/27/99	Davey et al.
5,984,903	11/16/99	Nadal
6,120,483	09/19/00	Davey et al.

2. Foreign Patent Documents

<u>Country</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Date</u>
Europe	191,154	08/20/86
Europe	328,332	08/16/89
Europe	351,864	01/24/90
Europe	864,336	09/16/98
France	2,707,505	01/20/95
Germany	3,724,978	02/09/89
Great Britain	727,959	04/13/55
PCT	WO 80/02230	10/30/80
PCT	WO 90/09204	08/23/90

3. Other References

-- none --

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each of the above-listed references is enclosed.

II. NEWLY CITED UNTRANSLATED REFERENCES NOT IN THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The following of the references listed on the transmitted Form PTO-1449 is not in the English language and has not to the knowledge of the undersigned attorney been previously submitted to or cited by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

No English-language translation of the following references is, however, within the custody or confine or is readily available to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c).

Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of the reference is enclosed, and a concise explanation of the understood relevance thereof is also provided below:

German Patent Publication No. 3,724,978 to Hans Imhof. The English abstract attached as the last page of this reference indicates that the reference discloses a catheter provided with a one-way check valve 2 at the distal end thereof. Check valve 2 is comprised of an elastic material configured as a cylindrical sleeve with one closed hemispherical tip. The opposite end of check valve 2 is secured to the exterior of the distal end of a catheter tube 1. A slit 12 through the hemispherical tip of check valve 2 permits the infusion of fluid from the interior of catheter tube 1 to the exterior of check valve 2.

III. COMMENT ON THE FORM IN WHICH COPIES OF THE
REFERENCES ARE BEING SUBMITTED

In view of the relatively substantial number of references listed above, the actual copies of those references are being submitted in a set of two (2) loose-leaf notebooks.

In the notebooks, the references are numerically tabulated, so that the number of each is the same as the reference number for each on the accompanying form PTO-1449.

Each of the notebooks includes a Table of Contents for the entire set of references.¹

It is respectfully hoped that the above-described form in which the actual copies of the identified references are submitted will facilitate an efficient evaluation thereof.

¹ For the completeness of the written record, submitted herewith is an extra copy of the Table of Contents for the notebooks separate and apart from the copies included in each of the notebooks.

In addition, it should be noted that among the references submitted the following are considered by the undersigned to be particularly relevant² to the general subject matter disclosed in the above-captioned application:

1. United States Patent Documents

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Patentee</u>	<u>PTO-1449 Reference Identification³</u>
4,973,319	11/27/90	Melsky	A35
5,030,210	07/09/91	Alchias	A39
5,261,885	11/16/93	Lui	A52
5,304,155	04/19/94	Lui	A55
5,522,807	06/04/96	Luther	A56
5,554,136	09/10/96	Luther	A57
5,928,203	07/27/99	Davey et al.	A66
5,984,903	11/16/99	Nadal	A67

2. Foreign Patent Documents

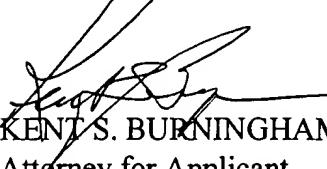
<u>Country</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>PTO-1449 Reference Identification³</u>
France	2,707,505	01/20/95	A73
Great Britain	727,959	04/13/55	A75

² Other references may in the opinion of an Examiner be of greater relevance, depending upon the recitations of a claim relative to which patentability is being evaluated.

³ Corresponds to tab number of reference in accompanying notebooks of references.

DATED this 18th day of January, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,


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